

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11880 251200Z
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 CA-01 PA-01 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 INR-10 DODE-00 /035 W
-----048207 251212Z /23
P R 251145Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3544
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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LIMDIS

HONG KONG FOR DIDR/INS - FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: BANGKOK POST ARTICLE ON REFUGEE "MARRIAGES"

1. A BANGKOK POST ARTICLE OF APRIL 25 REPORTED THAT TWO YOUNG REFUGEE COUPLES WERE "LEGALLY MARRIED" AT THE US EMBASSY ON APRIL 24. THE PAPER ALSO CARRIED A PICTURE OF THE TWO COUPLES WITH REVEREND TAYLOR, A LOCAL ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN WHO PRESIDED AT THE CEREMONY.

2. THE BACKGROUND OF THIS SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS: IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED THAT AT INS REQUEST, COMMENCING WITH THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM OF 1976, APPROVED REFUGEES FOR THE US WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED IN CAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES BY WESTERN CLERGYMEN IN CEREMONY ON EMBASSY PREMISES, ARRANGED BY REFUGEE OFFICE PERSONNEL. THE ORIGINAL REASONING APPARENTLY WAS THAT SOME MEANS OF VERIFYING A CAMP MARRIAGE WAS NECESSARY SINCE THAI LAW PROVIDES NO MEANS OF REGISTRATION FOR MARRIAGE OF ILLEGAL ALIENS, A CATEGORY IN WHICH ALL REFUGEES FALL.
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US MILITARY CHAPLAINS INITIALLY CONDUCTED THE CEREMONY, BUT SINCE THE LATER PART OF 1976 PRIVATE CLERGYMEN HAVE DONE SO. THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO USE THE U.S. ARMY CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

3. SINCE AUGUST 1977 LESS THAN TEN SUCH MARRIAGES HAVE BEEN VERIFIED USING THESE PROCEDURES. WE ARE

DISCONTINUING THIS PRACTICE, AND PLAN TO ASK THOSE
MARRIED IN THE CAMPS TO MAKE A SWORN STATEMENT
WHICH WOULD THEN BE NOTARIZED BY A CONSULAR OFFICIAL.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES, MARRIAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO11880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0292
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780422/aaaaarw.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d41849a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2864337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGKOK POST ARTICLE ON REFUGEE ("MARRIAGES")
TAGS: SREF, SOPN, US, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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